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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,022	11/30/2000	Masami Kato	35.C14963	9969

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EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS I

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2677

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/726,022	Applicant(s) KATO ET AL.	
	Examiner Abbas I. Abdulsalam	Art Unit 2674 ⁷	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The independent claims as amended state a limitation, "an attitude of a user continuously being toward the display device". The limitation is not described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-11, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seligmann (USPN 6330022) in view of Hardy (USPN 6025870) and Lyons (USPN 6195104).

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 5, Seligmann teaches participants or conferees (100, 110, 120 130) of a video conference with each participant connected via a local network, wide area network or any other network structure (150) to a conference bridge (160) and a processor /server (170). Seligmann teaches the conference bridge receiving four separate video signals, one video signal for each conferee over respective links (102, 112, 122, 132). Seligmann teaches video processing circuitry with respect to each terminal (101, 111, 121 131) enabling the generation of a conference image (520). See col. 7, lines 14-31 and Fig 5. Seligmann teaches each participant uses its terminal as an intelligent communication device such as a terminal (101), which include a telephone, a personal computer, a camera and microphone. See col. 5, lines 51-58. Furthermore, Seligman teaches a conferee control system including the use of a network blackboard, which is a virtual space for conferees to make certain data, video or other entries that can be observed by other conferees. In addition, Seligmann teaches multimedia video conferencing in terms of distributed computer program as well as stored in memory and processor/server (170) or memory (441). See Fig. 6 and col. 1, lines 43-46. However, Seligmann does not specifically teach the use of a terminal device coupled with a server configured in the "main office". Seligmann does teach a scenario where each participant viewing the image of all participant including the view of self. See col. 5, lines 15-16.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Seligmann's "self view" in a video conferencing which can be used to make all conferees of the conference viewable. One would have been motivated that the inclusion of "self view" along with the views of other participants is functionally equivalent the desired view seen in the main office. The use of "self view" in a video conferencing helps display all the images of the participants as taught by Seligmann.

Seligmann has been discussed above. However, Seligmann does not disclose "a control step of automatically changing the display of certain virtual space to a display of a virtual space for rest on the basis of the result in monitoring step so that the user in changed virtual space for rest can communicate with other users existing in common virtual space for rest". Hardy on the other hand teaches a videoconference system (1) including video switch (30), which performs switching operations and provides selected local video information for subsequent display on monitor (50). Hardy also teaches that the event information provided by a notification allows the videoconferencing system to determine when the switching should occur. See Fig 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify seligmann's video conferencing system to include Hardy's video switch along with event notification. One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion in Hardy that the video switch along with event notification is functionally equivalent to the desired controlling step including the monitoring step. The use of video switch helps function the process of videoconferencing as taught by Hardy.

Seligmann does not teach the automatic changing of the displayed virtual space of the user based on the physical condition of the user that is based on an image of the user picked up

by the camera. Lyons teaches a system (50) including a video display screen (54) that is located in front of an interaction area (52) where system users (62) stand. Lyons teaches the use of video camera (56) electronically reading the images of users (62) and interactive area (52), creating video signals corresponding to these images, and providing the video signals to a computer (58). See col. 6, lines 54-67 and Fig. 3.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Seligmann's videoconferencing to adapt Lyons' use of camera (56) with respect to users (62) and interactive area (52). One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion in Lyons that the use of camera (56) along with users (62) and interaction area (52) as configured in Fig. 3 can be equivalently used to meet the desired changing of displayed virtual space of the user based on the physical condition of the user. The use of a camera with respect to users and interaction area helps function a system with Multi-user video conferencing.

Regarding claim 10, Seligmann teaches events occurring during a set-up and during the conference with each participant making their own selection and an image being created of a virtual conference space.

Regarding claim 6, Seligmann teaches a video processor (410) in connection to the images of the participants. See col. Col. 9, lines 20-33.

Regarding claim 7, Seligmann teaches an actual virtual conference room portion (510) or a video presentation portion (530) and option icon portion (520) for selecting conference options. See col. 9, lines 67 and col. 10, lines 1-3.

Regarding claim 9, Seligmann teaches that a participant may select a context for a virtual conference including the use of voice-activated actuations. See col. 4, lines 41-43.

Regarding claim 11, Seligmann teaches a server (170) establishing communication with all identified participants. See Fig 12, lines 17-25.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abbas I. Abdulsalam whose telephone number is (571) 272-7685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala, can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 267~~4~~

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

Art Unit 2677

June 20, 2005



XIAO WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER